

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and Abstract are amended to correct informalities, and claim 1 is amended to provide antecedent basis. No new matter is added.

The Office Action objects to the specification, and lists several informalities in Section 7 of the Office Action. The specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also objects to the Abstract for an informality. The Abstract has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over WO 01/04701 to Moshrefzadeh et al. ("Moshrefzadeh") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,649 to Arai. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection of claim 1 lacks merit because one of ordinary skill in the art would not have tried to combine Moshrefzadeh and Arai to achieve the recited features of claim 1.

Claim 1 recites "an end of each of the wedge-shaped parts ... is a flat surface parallel to the entrance surface." The Office Action asserts that Moshrefzadeh discloses most of the features of claim 1. However, the Office Action acknowledges that Moshrefzadeh does not disclose the recited flat surface on the end of the wedge-shaped parts.

The Office Action asserts that Arai discloses this feature in Fig. 10, element 14G. The Office Action further asserts that it would have been obvious to combine the flat surface parallel to the entrance surface, allegedly disclosed by Arai with Moshrefzadeh "for the purpose of allowing light to be transmitted into the wedge-shaped parts without undue light scattering or back reflection."

However, Arai and Moshrefzadeh disclose devices that achieve their goals in two distinctly different manners. Arai discloses a light modifier sheet that concentrates (collimates) outgoing light by means of a difference between the refractive index of the light modifier sheet and the refractive index of air. By contrast, Moshrefzadeh discloses a light diffusing sheet for diffusing light by means of the difference between the refractive indices of the two adjacent parts making up the light diffusing sheet.

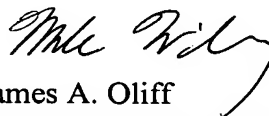
As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have believed that any specific features that are advantageous in one of the references would be in any way advantageous in the other. Furthermore, the flat surfaces disclosed in Arai do not serve the purpose disclosed in the instant application for this feature. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have thought it obvious to try and combine this feature into Moshrefzadeh to achieve the goals articulated by the instant application. As such, there would have been no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to attempt to try and combine Arai with Moshrefzadeh.

As such, the combination of Moshrefzadeh and Arai is improper. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, and claims 2-8 depending therefrom, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Substitute Abstract

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